

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
SAVANNAH DIVISION**

IN RE: MASTER LENDING GROUP, LLC, Debtor.	CHAPTER 7 CASE NO. 23-40569-EJC
PRUCO LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, Plaintiff, v. JUDITH HIRSCH, individually, and TIFFANY CARON, solely in her capacity as Chapter 7 Trustee for the bankruptcy estate of Master Lending Group, LLC, Defendants.	Adv. Pro. No. 23-04021-EJC

JOINT MOTION FOR REFERRAL TO MEDIATION

COME NOW Tiffany E. Caron, as Chapter 7 Trustee (the “Trustee”) for the bankruptcy estate of Master Lending Group, LLC (“Debtor” or “MLG”) and Judith Hirsch (“Ms. Hirsch”), to request the appointment of an available Bankruptcy Judge to mediate their respective claims in the above-styled bankruptcy case (the “Bankruptcy Case”) and related adversary proceeding no. 23-04021-EJC (the “Interpleader Adversary Proceeding”), and respectfully show the Court as follows:

1. The Trustee and Ms. Hirsch (collectively, the “Parties”) have agreed to submit this case to mediation. The Parties would like to mediate their disputes in the Bankruptcy Case and the Interpleader Adversary Proceeding. The Parties request that the Honorable Bankruptcy Judge Mary Grace Diehl of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, N.D.Ga. be appointed to serve as mediator.

2. A proposed Consent Order is attached hereto as **Exhibit “A”**.

WHEREFORE the Parties request: (a) the appointment of Bankruptcy Judge Diehl as

mediator, and (b) for such other relief as is just and proper.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 4th day of March, 2024.

/s/ Tiffany E. Caron (by Leon Jones with
express permission)

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/s/ Leon S. Jones

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Exhibit “A”

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
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IN RE:

MASTER LENDING GROUP, LLC,

Debtor.

CHAPTER 7

CASE NO. 23-40569-EJC

PRUCO LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

v.

**JUDITH HIRSCH, individually, and
TIFFANY CARON, solely in her capacity as
Chapter 7 Trustee for the bankruptcy estate
of Master Lending Group, LLC,**

Defendants.

Adv. Pro. No. 23-04021-EJC

CONSENT ORDER AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING MEDIATION OF DISPUTES

On March 4, 2024, Tiffany E. Caron, as Chapter 7 Trustee (the “Trustee”) for the bankruptcy estate of Master Lending Group, LLC (“Debtor” or “MLG”) and Judith Hirsch (“Mrs.

Hirsch” and together with the Trustee, the “Parties”) filed a *Joint Motion for Referral to Mediation* (the “Motion”) in the above-styled bankruptcy case and adversary proceeding. It appears that the most productive form of mediation is to designate a current bankruptcy judge with no assignment or responsibility for these proceedings as a settlement judge to serve as a neutral mediator and that Bankruptcy Judge Mary Grace Diehl of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, N.D.Ga. is qualified and suitable to serve in that capacity. For good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED as follows:

1. The parties to this proceeding shall mediate the issues and disputes presented in these proceedings. Bankruptcy Judge Mary Grace Diehl is hereby designated as a settlement judge with regard to this matter for the purpose of conducting mediation proceedings as the neutral mediator. Such mediation shall be conducted at a time and place and in accordance with procedures mutually agreed upon by the parties and Judge Diehl.

2. Because Judge Diehl will be serving as the neutral mediator in this matter and because the nature of the mediation process requires ex parte contacts and communications between the neutral mediator and each of the sides, the prohibitions of FED. R. BANKR. P. 9003 do not apply to communications among the parties, their attorneys, and Judge Diehl in connection with the mediation proceedings. The parties and their attorneys may, therefore, have ex parte communications with Judge Diehl in her capacity as the neutral mediator in connection with the mediation proceedings.

3. All communications made by the parties or their attorneys to each other or to Judge Diehl in connection with the mediation process, the conduct and demeanor of the parties and their counsel during the mediation, and any documents prepared or produced in connection with the mediation process, including Judge Diehl’s notes or records, shall be confidential and shall not be admissible in evidence or the subject of any discovery in any proceeding (unless admissible or

discoverable without regard to the mediation). The mediation sessions and any conferences or proceedings in connection therewith shall be treated as compromise negotiations for purposes of the Federal Rules of Evidence, the Georgia Rules of Evidence, or any rules of evidence of any other jurisdiction. No record will be made of the mediation proceedings. Judge Diehl is disqualified from appearing as a witness in any matter, and shall not be called as a witness, with regard to the mediation or any matter arising out of or related thereto.

[END OF ORDER]

Prepared and Consented to by:

JONES & WALDEN LLC

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Consented to by:

/s/ Tiffany E. Caron (by Leon Jones with
express permission)

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this date, the foregoing *Joint Motion for Referral to Mediation* (“Motion”) was electronically filed using the Bankruptcy Court’s Electronic Case Filing program, which sends a notice of and an accompanying link to the Motion to the following parties who have appeared in this case under the Bankruptcy Court’s ECF Program:

- **Ellen Louise Ash** ellen.ash@qpwbllaw.com
- **John K. Rezac** jrezac@taylorenghish.com
- **Timothy D. Roberts** troberts@olivermaner.com
- **Natalie Rowland** nrowland@taylorenghish.com
- **Christopher Brent Wardrop** justin.plean@qpwbllaw.com

This 4th day of March, 2024.

JONES & WALDEN LLC

/s/ Leon S. Jones

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